

HONOR AND MERIT AWARDS CEREMONY

Thursday, 29 August 1974

12 Noon

Presentation by Lt. General Vernon A. Walters, USA  
Acting Director of Central Intelligence

DISTINGUISHED INTELLIGENCE MEDAL

to

DANIEL O. GRAHAM  
Lieutenant General, United States Army

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ACTING DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL - [ ] General Walters, ladies and gentlemen. The Distinguished Intelligence Medal is the Agency's highest decoration for performance and it is awarded by the Director only for truly outstanding service. Today we honor Lt. General Daniel Graham, whose major contributions to the national intelligence effort have earned him this award.

General Graham, please.

STAT MR. [ ] Citation: Daniel O. Graham, Lieutenant General, United States Army, is hereby awarded the Distinguished Intelligence Medal in recognition of his distinctively innovative contributions and exceptional achievements to the national intelligence effort. General Graham has had a long and distinguished career in intelligence, discharging progressively more senior and responsible duties in testimony of his judgment and acumen as an analyst, estimator and manager. General Graham has served with rare skill and imagination for the past year as Deputy to the Director of Central Intelligence for the Intelligence Community. In this position he has taken major strides toward marshalling the Intelligence Community to provide the best possible intelligence support to national policymakers, reflecting great credit on him and the United States Government.

ACTING DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE: I nearly always say that it's a pleasure for me to take part in these ceremonies, but in this case it is a very particular pleasure.

The Citation has really said everything, and to say anything else than that would be superfluous. Danny has done everything there is to do in intelligence, from commanding a military intelligence battalion, he's been an estimator, he's been head of the Collection Division, he's been just about everything there is to do in this business. And there has been a constant thread of excellence to such a degree that when the vacancy occurred in the Defense Intelligence Agency, I don't think any serious thought was given to anybody other than him. He was an obvious candidate for it.

In addition to his skill in intelligence, he came here as the first military man in the Intelligence Community job, at least in some time - not exactly in the easiest time or the easiest atmosphere for all of us - and he discharged his job with the same excellence that we have always been led to expect. The trouble with Danny is his performance is so good that you take it for granted and nobody realizes how really excellent it is. But the mere fact that there really wasn't any consideration other than Danny for this job I think speaks louder than anything else. I can speak with some personal feeling of this. He always claims that I didn't work for him, but I did. When he was head of the Collection Division in DIA, I was his senior and probably most difficult attaché -- I'm not sure about that, but I think I probably was.

But anyway, I must say that when he came to that job, it made my job infinitely easier, and I will always, for what he did to help me at that time, feel a sense of gratitude to him. That sense of gratitude was not just mine; it was of the whole Collection Division, of all the people who were his collection, the attachés all over. I talked to other attachés and I found that Danny's coming to that position had the same impact on them that it had on me.

His professional competence, his unchallengeable integrity of character, his ability to get along with people have really created the situation that brought him to where he is today. I think he is the youngest Lieutenant General in the Army. I think he probably spent less time as a Major General than anybody else in the Army. And everybody accepts this, because no one challenges the excellence of his performance and the dedication which he has brought to the United States Government.

But in saying all these good things about him, I want to say my personal belief is he was only able to do these

things in this way because he had more massive support than most people from his wife and from his family. Not only has he given this service to the United States, but he's got one of his sons who is well on the way to doing the same sort of thing; so he's ensured a considerable degree of continuity in this. But to his wife, who has supported him during all this, to his children, who have put up with all the oddities of working in the intelligence business -- And for more than 10 years, I believe since 1958, almost continuously he's been in intelligence in some form or another, he has brought great credit not only on himself but on the performance of military people in intelligence.

I am sure that under his able guidance and leadership he will go forward to DIA to bring it to new heights in its support for the intelligence effort of the United States. I consider we have lost something in losing him here but we have a good man coming in in Sam Wilson, who has also had a distinguished career in intelligence. But I think that perhaps with his going to this job, the overall intelligence effort, the overall effectiveness of the community, will probably be improved, and that mitigates the sense of loss that we feel at seeing him go, seeing him so ably seconded by General Tighe, who will be his deputy, and all the other fine people in DIA. To you, Danny, and to them, along with this recognition of the superb performance that you have given the United States, our best wishes for success.